

House Resolution 1801

By: Representatives Bordeaux of the 162nd, Cummings of the 16th, Hanner of the 148th, Parham of the 141st, Dodson of the 75th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Congratulating former Speaker of the House Thomas B. Murphy on the occasion of his 82nd
2 birthday; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Thomas B. Murphy was born on March 10, 1924, in Bremen, Georgia, a
4 community which has provided him and his family with a beloved home place throughout
5 his life; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Murphy graduated from Bremen High School in 1941 and North Georgia
7 College in 1943 and went on to serve his country with valor and distinction in the United
8 States Navy in the Pacific Theater of Operations during World War II; and

9 WHEREAS, following his wartime service, he entered the University of Georgia School of
10 Law, received his law degree there in 1949, and began his lifetime career in the practice of
11 law, a profession which he loved and within which he has become one of the most esteemed
12 members of the Georgia Bar; and

13 WHEREAS, he has enjoyed a long and distinguished career in public service, including
14 service as a member and chairman of the Bremen Board of Education and election to the
15 Georgia House of Representatives, where he served from 1961 until the convening of the
16 2003 session, including service as Administration Floor Leader in the 1967-68 term and as
17 Speaker Pro Tempore in the 1971-72 and 1973-74 terms; and

18 WHEREAS, he was elected Speaker of the House in 1973 and served in that office for the
19 remainder of his tenure in the House; and he was for many of those years the longest-serving
20 active presiding officer of any state legislature; and

21 WHEREAS, Speaker Murphy is a towering figure in the history of Georgia and one who is
22 respected by both his allies and his adversaries for his hard work for the causes he believes

1 in; his devotion to principle; his honesty, candor, and wit; his expert knowledge of law,
2 government, and politics; and above all his sincere dedication to the betterment of the state
3 and its people; and

4 WHEREAS, the members of this body also know Speaker Murphy as a man of deep and
5 abiding faith and moral courage; a devoted family man; a lover of sports and nature; and a
6 steadfast friend; and

7 WHEREAS, many members of his body have celebrated the Speaker's birthday with him
8 during the legislative session; and

9 WHEREAS, by the example he has made of his life, he makes this world a better place, and
10 it is only fitting and proper that he be appropriately recognized on the celebration of his 82nd
11 birthday.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
13 the members of this body join in expressing their congratulations and best wishes to one of
14 our state's most honorable citizens, former Speaker Thomas B. Murphy, on the happy event
15 of his 82nd birthday and thank him for all of his many contributions to Georgia.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
17 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to former Speaker Thomas B.
18 Murphy.